

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04134 052151Z

13

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 COME-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6768

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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DEPT PASS FAS/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AR

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE PROBLEMS

REF: A. STATE 110296; B. BRASILIA 3875

1. EMBOFFS MET SEPARTELY WITH PEDRO LACAU, SUBSECRETARY OF LIVESTOCK AND JORGE PEREDA, PRESIDENT NATIONAL MEAT BOARD, TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE PROBLEMS AND US INITIATIVE TOWARD EC AND JAPAN PER REF A. LACAU AND PEREDA ALREADY WELL AWARE OF CURRENT PROBLEM, BUT WERE SURPRISED AND CONCERNED AT POSSIBILITY OF 20-25 PERCENT INCREASE IN 1975 PRODUCTION, SINCE GOA HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO IMPROVED EXPORT PROSPECTS IN COMING YEAR. WHILE BOTH MADE PRO FORMA REFERENCE TO GOA DESIRE TO SHIP MORE BEEF TO US, THEY CLEARLY RECOGNIZE EC RESTRICTIONS AS PRINCIPAL LIMITATION ON CURRENT ARGENTINE EXPORTS. THEY APPRECIATED INITIATIVE TAKEN BY US, BUT WERE UNABLE TO OFFER SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS RE ARGENTINE SUPPORT FOR US EFFORTS. PEREDA CHECKED THIS POSITION BY PHONE WITH LEOPTLDO TETTAMANTI, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 04134 052151Z

SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS,

DURING OUR MEETING.

2. GOA HAS ALREADY MADE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS OF ITS OWN TO EC. LACAU AND PEREDA VISITED BRUSSELS IN MAR TO PROPOSE LONG TERM AGREEMENT INTENDED TO STABILIZE VOLUME OF ARGENTINE BEEF EXPORTS TO COMMUNITY. NO AGREEMENT RESULTED, BUT LACAU SAID HE HOPEFUL THAT EC WOULD RECONSIDER PROPOSAL ONCE IT HAS WORKED OFF ITS CURRENT INTERNAL SURPLUS. LACAU NOTED AND PEREDA LATER CONFIRMED THAT BRAZIL RECENTLY BOUGHT LARGE AMOUNT OF EC MEAT AND ALSO BUYING BEEF IN URUGUAY. ARGENTINA HAS ALSO TAKEN LEAD IN BRINGING TOGETHER URUGUAY, PARAGUAY AND COLUMBIA TO PRESENT COMMON EXPORTER POSITION TO EC. BRAZIL INVITED TO JOIN BUT DECLINED; ARGENTINES EXPECT BRAZIL TO BE IMPORTER RATHER THAN EXPORTER OF MEAT IN FUTURE.

3. LACAU POINTED OUT THAT BEEF PRODUCTION CYCLES OF ARGENTINA AND EUROPE INCREASINGLY IN PHASE WITH ONE ANOTHER, WHICH ACCENTUATES CYCLICAL CHANGES IN PRODUCTION AND PRICE FOR BOTH AREAS. HE SUGGESTED NEED FOR MULTILATERAL COOPERATION TO STABILIZE PRODUCTION AND SMOOTH OUT THESE CHANGES. GOA NOW VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ADVERSE EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC BEEF CYCLE, AND IS ADOPTING MEASURES TO AVOID HEAVY LIQUIDATION OF LIVESTOCK AT TIME WHEN EXPORTS ARE RESTRICTED. MEAT BOARD RECENTLY ANNOUNCED IT WOULD PURCHASE AND STOCK PILE ABOUT 20,000 TONS CANNED CORN BEEF, WITH INTENT TO HOLD THESE STOCKS 2 TO 3 YEARS.

4. ALSO DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH CELEDONIA PEREDA, PRESIDENT OF RURAL SOCIETY, ARGENTINA'S MAJOR PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION. HE QUESTIONED USDA ESTIMATE OF 1975 PRODUCTION INCREASE SAYING SOCIETY HAD ESTIMATED MAXIMUM INCREASE AT 12-15 PERCENT. HE SUGGESTED US MISSION TO EC DISCUSS COMMUNITY RESTRICTIONS WITH ARGENTINE COUNTERPARTS, AND SAID HE WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THIS IN LETTER TO ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR RECALDE IN BRUSSELS.

5. EMBASSY CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA OFFICIALS AND WILL REPORT SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS. SINCE BOTH LACAU AND PEREDA (MEAT BOARD) EXPRESSED INTEREST IN WORLD PRODUCTION DATA WHICH SERVED AS BASIS FOR USDA ESTIMATE OF POSSIBLE 20-25 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 04134 052151Z

PERCENT INCREASE IN PRODUCTION, WHICH THEY CONSIDERED VERY HIGH, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SUCH DATA IF IT AVAILABLE IN FORM WHICH CAN BE PASSED TO GOA.
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